

**CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
OF THE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**WILLIAM L. KOVACS**  
VICE PRESIDENT  
ENVIRONMENT, TECHNOLOGY &  
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July 28, 2006

Dr. Rodney E. Cluck  
Project Coordinator  
Minerals Management Service  
381 Elden Street  
Mail Stop 4042  
Herndon, VA 20164

**Re: Comments on the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental  
Impact Statement (EIS) on the Cape Wind Project**

Dear Dr. Cluck:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, is pleased to submit these comments on the Minerals Management Service (MMS) Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS on the Cape Wind Project. U.S. Chamber members throughout New England and the United States depend on an affordable, reliable supply of energy to power their businesses. A number of Chamber members are also directly involved in the wind energy industry.

The process to obtain permits necessary to begin construction of the Cape Wind Project began almost five years ago when Cape Wind Associates submitted its permit applications to the Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Since 2001, the effort to construct America's first offshore wind farm has been delayed by extensive environmental analyses and plagued with localized NIMBY-fueled opposition, including targeted attacks launched by a select few members of Congress. At the same time, the need for energy has grown dramatically and costs have skyrocketed.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 transferred authority over projects such as Cape Wind to the MMS. The U.S. Chamber urges the MMS to build on the work that the USACE has already completed and expeditiously finish the EIS. In November 2004, USACE produced a Draft Environmental Impact Statement, a 3,800 page-

document that also includes the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' environmental analysis, the Draft Environmental Impact Review, and the Cape Cod Commission's Development of Regional Impact. The conclusion reached in each of these analyses is that the Cape Wind project will positively benefit the communities it serves and will not adversely impact the environment. Subsequent research and analysis have reached similar conclusions, and in 2005 Massachusetts regulators issued two key approvals, moving the Cape Wind Project into the next phase of the approval process.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration predicted in its 2006 Annual Energy Outlook that demands for electricity will increase 50% over the next 25 years, despite simultaneous increases in efficiency. In order to satisfy this growing demand, the United States must employ a diverse array of energy resources, including offshore wind. While the Cape Wind Project is the first of its kind proposed in the United States, offshore wind farms are common in many places around the world, such as Sweden, Germany, and Denmark. Despite the success of foreign offshore wind farms, the U.S. wind energy industry has become increasingly less competitive as projects like Cape Wind continue to be delayed.

The Cape Wind Project has undergone some of the most rigorous environmental analyses to date, and has been consistently demonstrated to be environmentally sound as well as to hold great benefit for the communities it will serve. Thank you for this opportunity to comment on the EIS for the Cape Wind Project. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William L. Kovacs". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

William L. Kovacs